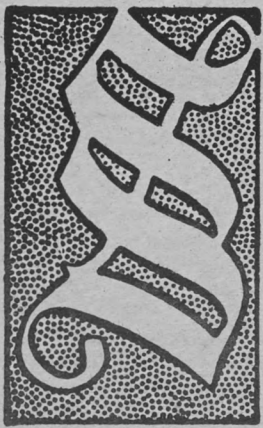
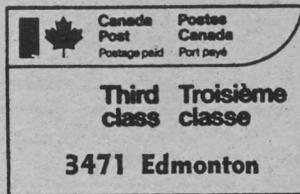
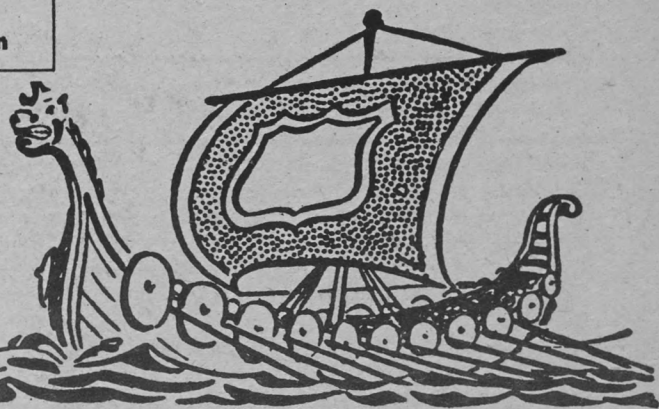


SORENSEN, S.  
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EDMONTON, 82, ALBERTA



# Scandinavian Centre News



PUBLISHED BY THE SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION

VOL. XII No. 12

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TWELVE PAGES

DECEMBER 1972

# MERRY CHRISTMAS YEAR

GLAEDELIG JUL og FARS AELT NYAR  
GLEDILEG JOL og GODT NYTAAR

# HAPPY NEW

GLEDELEG JUL og GOTT NYT AR  
GOD JUL och GODT NYTAAR

HAUSKAA JOULUA ja ONNELLISTA UUTTA VUOTTA



# SPLINTERS from the BOARD

BY SOREN SORENSON

## SCANDAPADES

It is getting close and our Director in charge of Scandapades, Mr. Allen Larson, is in need of all the people that he can get. He needs Planners and Show Organizers, Writers, Designers for Stage Settings and Costumes, people to help build sets and making Costumes, Actors and Actress. If you are an amateur or professional it doesn't matter. The more people who are willing to be involved in the planning of the show, and participation, the better the event will be.

WE REALLY NEED HELP

ANYBODY THERE INTERESTED?

Please Phone Mr. Allen Larson — 488-0560

or Mr. Les Greenham — 455-4355

## NEW YEARS DANCE

For the best time of your life, don't forget the NEW YEARS DANCE AND DINNER that will take place at the SCANDINAVIAN CENTRE on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 31st at 9:00 p.m. Tickets are only \$9.00 per person. For more information Phone: Mr. Les Greenham Office — 455-4355 Res. — 455-0082

## RADIO REPORT

The Scandinavian Show is on CFCW Radio Station every Saturday morning at 10:30—790 kc on your AM dial. The Scandinavian Centre Report is broadcast on this program at approximately 11:25 a.m. Ole Knudsen will give the report for the month of December. If you have any news, please call Ole Knudsen — Phone 434-6883.

# POSITION PAPER ON ALBERTA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE

By the Hon. Horst A. Schmid, Minister of Culture, Youth and Recreation

Alberta's people are representative of many divergent cultural backgrounds, and this fact is recognized by the Government of Alberta. The government recognizes also that "every people has a characteristic culture of its own; and, ultimately, many cultures, evolving together, produced a distinct and new culture". The Government believes that Alberta should now carefully assess the riches of the cultural wealth of its peoples, and give direction to the full utilization of this human heritage.

Because our heritage is real, because it is the sum and substance of our social expression, reaching into the distant past, influencing our lives today, pre-shaping the lives of the children of tomorrow, the Government convened a Cultural Heritage Conference in June of 1972. Representatives of over fifty ethno - cultural groups attended and their concerns, hopes and aspirations were brought forward and discussed. Some people live under the impression that diversity of language and cultural expressions divide and weaken. The declared intent of our cultural heritage policy is that our diversity of cultural riches shall be a binding

tie of unity and an increasing source of pride to our people. The more specific objectives to which our Cultural Heritage policy is to be directed: (1) To give Albertans increasing pride and identity as a people. (2) To unite us in singular strength through understanding of our individual ethno-backgrounds; the sharing of our cultural diversity and richness, and appreciation of our evolving identity. (3) To preserve the cultural wealth of our past: the rites, arts, music, etc. of our native peoples; the old-world contributions of our immigrant settlers; the songs, dances, social ways that each ethno-group brought by way of cultural dowry to this new land and which, in many cases, is becoming a common cultural mosaic, uniquely our own. (4) To stimulate the living arts—painting, dancing, music, handicrafts, the human drama—precisely because of our diversity of heritage background, and thus help Alberta's writers, musicians, dramatists, dancers, etc. to national and international acceptance, appreciation and recognition.

At the previously mentioned Cultural Heritage Conference held in June, delegates passed many resolutions that would, in their implementation, affect many departments of Government. Among those high on the priority list of the delegates to the Cultural Heritage Conference were the following: (1) The establishment of a Cultural Heritage Council representative of all ethno-cultural groups in Alberta. This Council would consider and recommend programs for the development and preservation of our Cultural Heritage in Alberta. But Stephan smiles from heaven's gate at all their complaints berserk. His monument he built himself within the poet's work. When the first two lines omitted, the reader might well wonder what complaints and what monument I'm talking about. As a poet, I'd like to say that after a quarter century in the newspaper business I've never committed such a typographical transgression, but as a reasonable man I know you'd never believe me, and as an honest man I must confess there is some poetic justice in my being the victim for once. Regards, Art Reykdal \*\*\* (Forgive me my human frailties. Overburdened, inexperienced and underpaid, and some not paid at all, help may have been a factor. The terrible thing is, that as a perfectionist myself, I did not have time to check it personally—a fault of many overworked, overburdened and underpaid editors. If it is any consolation, a poem of mine which went through the same hands was similarly hard done by, and at the time I was very upset. When something like this touches you personally, you feel it. Sorry, Art, no more excuses. Editor.) (2) The publication of a Cultural Heritage periodical to provide a medium for the exchange of information among the various ethno - cultural communities in Alberta and the government. It is proposed that, initially, this publication would be a bi-monthly magazine, drawing the attention of Albertans generally to the color, drama and richness of the cultural past, and providing a vehicle of communication among the various cultural groups of the province. (3) The establishment of an office within the Department of Culture, Youth and Recreation to co-ordinate the development of ethno-cultural programs in Alberta. The Government of Alberta has accepted these priority resolutions and declares them to be in effect as of this date. It should be emphasized that this declaration of the government's position in regard to its cultural heritage is, in keeping with the human freedom of its peoples, a fluid and free policy—a springboard for natural development of the cultural richness of our people. The overall aim of this new cultural heritage policy is to preserve that part of our cultural past worthy of preserving, enrich our cultural present, and enhance Alberta's cultural tomorrow.

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- THANK YOU ALL AND A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

## THE GOOD THINGS OF CHRISTMAS

It's time to enjoy the good things of Christmas,  
A time when we give and we share;  
When children are wide-eyed in breathless suspense,  
And the sweet scent of pine fills the air.

It's time for old carols, old customs, old friends,  
For shortbread and cookies and cake,  
For trinket-filled stockings, for holly, for wreaths,  
And the good things that mother will bake.

It's time for the turkey and cranberry sauce,  
And the fireplace, and stories re-told;  
For the good things of Christmas are wrapped up in joy  
And the cherished traditions of old.

## Letter to the Editor

Dear Les:

As Oscar Wilde once said, "A poet can survive anything but a misprint." In my poem on Stephan G. Stephansson which appeared in your November issue, a couple of lines were omitted. As printed, the last narrative stanza begins "And when at last they laid him down . . ." and should have ended with " . . . at last returning home." However, the last two lines from the next stanza were tacked onto the end of it and the first two omitted altogether. That stanza should have read: And now they bicker and complain the house should be a shrine, Immortalizing memories of each immortal line.

But Stephan smiles from heaven's gate at all their complaints berserk. His monument he built himself within the poet's work. When the first two lines omitted, the reader might well wonder what complaints and what monument I'm talking about. As a poet, I'd like to say that after a quarter century in the newspaper business I've never committed such a typographical transgression, but as a reasonable man I know you'd never believe me, and as an honest man I must confess there is some poetic justice in my being the victim for once. Regards, Art Reykdal \*\*\*

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# The Scandinavian Centre News

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We're going through our Christmas Period now. Every night I come home and the kids are so courteous, so helpful, so quiet—I have to check the address to make sure I'm in the right house. \*\*\*

NEW YEARS EVE: when the old year and most of your guests pass out. \*\*\*

Please be careful when driving home during the festive season. Remember, operating a car is like playing Russian Roulette. You never know which driver is loaded.



# THE FIRST NORWEGIAN CHRISTMAS

Summary of Christmas talk to TORSKE CLUBBEN in December 1971 by Rev. Philip M. Jorgensen, Pastor of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Edmonton.

It is King Olaf Trygvestad that is given the credit for bringing Christmas to Norway in the year 995 A.D. Perhaps St. Ansgar, who occasionally made preaching tours of Norway, happened to be in Norway on an earlier Christmas, but in any case I like better the story that it was begun by a guy named Ole.

Olaf Trygvestad is remembered as Norway's first Christian King, and he had a son known as St. Olaf. And that reminds me that I had my university training at a school named ST. OLAF COLLEGE. Now this school was made up of about 2,000 upright, clean - living, fair - minded, peace-loving youth of Norwegian ancestry—the cream of Norwegian-American Lutheranism. Our school motto was the war cry of Olaf Trygvestad, "FRAM, FRAM, CHRISTMENN CROSS-MENN" (forward, forward, men of Christ, men of the cross).

Being of Danish descent, and ignorant of these two Olafs, that is, I naively imagined them to be also upright, clean-living, fair - minded, peace - loving saints, cut from the same pattern as perhaps St. Francis of Assisi. How else could I explain these fine Norwegian youth? It came as a bit of a rude shock to discover that St. Olaf was a bit of a ruffian, and his father, Olaf Trygvestad, in our time, would have been booked for armed robbery, kidnapping, slave-trading, black-mail and several lesser charges. Since then, it has been my conclusion that the CONVERSION OF NORWAY, though thorough, took place rather slowly. Like Christmas, it has yet to be completely Christianized. I think we should remember Olaf Trygvestad, however, not for the virtues he lacked, but for the virtues he had, and especially for the virtue of the courage of his Christian convictions and the boldness to start Norway on a new path.

I came across a poem by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow on the first Norwegian Christmas. In this poem he imagines and re-creates Norway's first Christmas. I find some wry humor in it, and it certainly brings out the perennial problem of the mixture of the secular and the sacred in the celebration of Christmas. The scene is Olaf's great hall where he is surrounded by his Berserks.

(Berserks—this term does not mean "crazy Norwegians", but "bear-shirted" warriors.)

At Drontheim, Olaf the King  
Heard the bells of Yule-tidring,  
As he sat in his banquet hall,  
Drinking the nut-brown ale,  
With his bearded Berserks hale  
And tall.

O'er his drinking horn, the sign  
He made of the cross divine  
As he drank and muttered his  
prayers,  
But his Berserks evermore  
Made the sign of the Hammer of  
Thor  
Over theirs.

Then King Olaf raised the hilt  
Of iron, cross-shaped and gilt  
And said, "Do not refuse;  
Count well the gain and the loss  
Thor's hammer or Christ's cross  
Choose!"

On the shining wall a vast  
And shadowy cross was cast  
From the hilt of the lifted  
sword  
And in foaming cups of ale  
The Berserks drank "Was-hael!  
To the Lord!"

So we can well imagine King Olaf and his Berserks celebrating the Lord's Birth with their drinking and gorging on the roast boar. As the churchly prayer reminds us: We praise God "not as we ought, but as we are able".

Now this first Norwegian Christmas took place in 995 A.D. It had been a busy year for Olaf Trygvestad. Earlier that year, he set out in his speedy Viking Ship, The Long-Serpent, with 93 other warships and laid siege to London town. It seems Olaf was running some sort of a protection racket. Finally, the Londoners gave Olaf 16,000 pounds of silver to "just plain go away". A little later, he attended the Witenagemot (convention) at Andover, England. Something happened here that eventually led to the end of Viking Norway and the beginning of Christian Norway. Olaf, like so many Norwegian boys since, was confirmed in the Christian faith. (He was likely baptized as an infant in Russia, for when Harald Blood-Axe killed his father, the baby, Ole, and his mother fled to the court of St. Vladimir.) It was customary to have a sponsor at confirmation, and in any case, the bishop was not unfair to ask for a character reference in this situation. King Aethelred of England must have been a forgiving sort of chap, for he was the one to come forward to be Olaf's sponsor. After this

Olaf Trygvestad sailed back to Norway with his warriors and ran out King Haakon. Imagine Olaf yelling "FRAM, FRAM, CHRIST-MENN, CROSSMENN" while throwing spears with both arms simultaneously, as was his fame. The upshot of all this was that Olaf was now King Olaf, the busy year was about over, and we have the background for the first Christmas in Norway.

After Christmas, and for the rest of his life, Olaf continued with his armed robbery, protection racketeering and slave-trading. (He did abstain from commerce in Christian slaves.) Don't judge Olaf too harshly; he made a living the only way he knew how. I also have great respect for King David and he, too, ran a black-mail and protection thing in his Judean days. So Olaf Trygvestad began the Conversion of Norway, but left some of the finer points to later generations.

A great story is told about the problems his son, St. Olaf, had in bringing about a new way of life, some alternative to the Viking style. St. Olaf tried valiantly to bring up his sons with new ideas. He put his three young boys on his lap and asked them in turn what they would do when they grew up. The first said he would farm all the land from the great-hall to the sea and raise grain. St. Olaf approved the life style but thought his son a little ambitious as he remarked this was the size of 10 big farms. His second son vowed that he would prefer to raise cattle, and would have so many that they would easily eat up all the grain that his brother raised. Again he nodded approvingly, while remarking he, too, was a little greedy. Then it was the third son's turn and he insultingly said he would gather so many Berserks that they would take all his brother's cattle and devour them at one meal. And it was somewhat prophetic, as he was the son that became the next King. So the Viking age died slowly, finally giving way to occupations of more respectability.

## The First Norwegian Christmas in Canada

Perhaps the first Norwegian Christmas in Canada occurred about the year 1000 A.D. when Leif the Lucky, or some later Norseman, visited or settled in Canada. The Olaf Kings quickly brought Christianity to Iceland and the other outposts and with it, the Christmas celebration, which was such a big thing in medieval times.

However, the first documented Norwegian Christmas in Canada came in 1619 during the Jens Munck expedition which was seeking the Northwest Passage. This Christmas celebration is recorded in the ship's log together with the note that Holy Communion was served. It was certainly a somewhat somber and simple observation. Somber because many of the crew had already been buried nearby what is now Churchill, Man. The chaplain, a Dane, was also to be buried there before the remnant returned to Norway in the summer of 1620. It was likely a simple celebration, with no great feasting, for shortage of food. We may even imagine that the meal consisted of Norwegian hard tack, namely lefse, and, that Norwegian abomination, lutefisk, which age cannot further rot.

## In Praise of Lutefisk

Now to sermonize a bit, I would rather praise than belittle Lutefisk and lefse, and to praise such simple and sacred celebrations of Christmas as that which we find in "the Churchill saga" rather than "the Drontheim saga". It is the simple and free things of Christmas that we remember and hold dear rather than the expensive and ostentatious. I polled the Torske Clubben for their memories of Christmas, and noted were things like "father reading the Christmas gospel", "singing around the Christmas tree", "the larger family gathering", "worship". I praise lutefisk and lefse and the simple things of Christmas, because more room then is made for the sacred celebration of Christmas.

We read of the shepherds, that when they heard of the birth of Jesus, didn't say "this calls for a drink" or "this calls for a feast", as have Christian-pagans ever since. Nor did the wisemen, when they arrived at the manger, say to one another, "Hey, Melchoir, I brought you some gold." Nor did Melchoir say, "Thanks, Casper, and I brought you some frankincense."

## How to Celebrate Christmas

I hope that our merciful Lord accepts the mixed-up celebration of the average Christian of our time, as I trust He accepted the poor worship of Olaf Trygvestad, if it was as Longfellow predicts it. We are all somewhat captive to our heritage for better and worse.

But let us not overlook or neglect the means of celebration that is presented in the Christmas

stories of the gospels. They celebrated with prayers, songs, worship, praise and gifts to Christ. Unfortunately, many have not discovered how 'high' or better, how exalted one can become in prayer and praise. Here we could take lessons from the 'Jesus People'. Many have yet to discover how one can search the depths of life in devout worship. All of us need to continually re-experience the beauty of the attitude of reverence before our great Creator, who some became flesh in the birth of Jesus and lived among us, full of Grace and Truth. Like the angels sang, like Zechariah, and Mary, Simeon prayed and praised. We need to sing and pray and praise in infinite variation, in glorious powerful chorus. The good news is for us, that Christ the Saviour is here!

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## CHRISTMAS FROM THE PAST

- 400: Rome decrees that theatres must close on Christmas.
- 800s: In Germany, the first Christmas tree is introduced by English missionary, Boniface.
- 1223: To inspire religious fervor, St. Francis of Assisi stages one of the first Christmas mangers ever, using real people and real animals.
- 1492: Columbus lands in a Haitian port, calls it La Navidad in honor of the Nativity.
- 1742: Handel's Messiah premieres in Dublin.
- 1776: Washington crosses the Delaware on Christmas Day.
- 1843: Charles Dickens writes "A Christmas Carol", with its now-mythic cast of characters.
- 1846: England originates the Christmas card. Designed by J. C. Horsley for Sir

- Henry Cole, it was lithographed, then colored by hand.
- 1863: In the U.S., Thomas Nast develops modern concept of Santa Claus as a large jolly fellow with a white beard, in Harper's Weekly.
- 1897: Francis Church, an editorial writer for the New York Sun, receives a letter from 8-year-old Virginia O'Hanlon asking if there really is a Santa Claus. Church reassures her there is.
- 1932: King George V makes the first commonwealth broadcast: "Through one of the marvels of modern science (the wireless), I am enabled this Christmas Day to speak to all my peoples throughout the Empire."
- 1949: Another myth is born—Johnny Marks' Rudolph The Red-Nosed Reindeer.

## POSITION AVAILABLE

The position as Editor of News of Norway will become vacant on January 25, 1973. Interested persons are requested to apply to the Norwegian Embassy Information Service, 3401 Massachusetts Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20007.

The new Editor must be prepared to locate either in Washington, D.C. or in New York, N.Y. He should be a Norwegian well acquainted with the various aspects of Norwegian society and having a good command of English. Ideally, the applicant should have a background which includes academic training in both Norway and the United States.

## MR. L. L. MORRIS

Managing Editor  
Scandinavian Centre News  
14220 - 125 Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta

I would like to contribute \$..... towards the operation of the Scandinavian Centre News.

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I do not wish to have my name used in the paper, kindly use the following pen name:

I now receive the paper from: ☐ Scandinavian Centre (Shareholder) ☐ Danish Society ☐ Finnish Society ☐ Icelandic Society ☐ Sons of Norway ☐ Vasa Lodge.



SOLGLYT SPOTLIGHT



By Irene Hovde



IRENE HOVDE IN NORWAY.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, December 9—Election of officers and Christmas Bingo.  
Sewing Group are holding their annual bazaar in the Nordic Room, Scandinavian Centre.  
General Meeting at 8 p.m. Bingo \$1.00.  
Sunday, December 17 — Christmas Party for members. Time—3-5 p.m., Nordic Room, Scandinavian Centre. Coffee and lunch will be served.  
Saturday, January 13 — 1973 Installation Dinner and Dance.

Small turnout for the General Meeting and Initiation held on Wed., Oct. 18. The lodge

welcomed six new members that evening: Christopher Hale, Harry and Beatrice Huser, Al and Brenda Letendre and Wm. Furey.  
Everyone enjoyed a sports film from the National Film Board with lunch and coffee served afterwards.  
Sorry to hear the following members have been sick: Laurel Hafso, Alvin Searl, Olaf Rost, Harv Haugen and Joan Fowler.  
Bernard and Kay Olafson with their children visited friends at Wainwright recently.  
We hope Mr. and Mrs. Currie are enjoying their new apartment at Meadowcroft Sr. Citizen Apt. and that their son-in-law, Mr. Isert, is recovering from his recent illness.  
By all accounts Henry Logan and Andy Mjaaveit were away for a few days hunting.



The United Nations supper, program and dance was a great

success on the evening of Oct. 28. Thanks to the lodge ladies who donated their time on behalf of Sons of Norway.  
Mrs. Hustad thanks the lady for the beautiful flowers at her birthday party. She is now in Vancouver holidaying.  
Those people not showing up at the whist party Nov. 8 really missed something because we had a wonderful time, with wine, cheese and coffee served after. Thank you to Ragna Sivertson and Ole Vold. The prize winners were: Henry Logan, Betty Travis, Dick Larson and Irene Hovde.  
Irene Hovde in Norway with her family this summer—her husband, Nils, son, Nicky and daughter, Inga. Irene and Nils celebrated their 25th Anniversary in Haugesand, which was the same day—July 18—that King Olav of Norway was there, to celebrate the 1,100 years of Harold the Hairfair, who was buried in the town of Haugesand. Irene was also on stage singing at a banquet, which she and her family had been invited to. The flight with Wardair was a wonderful experience. Irene's daughter, Inez, and husband celebrated their 2nd anniversary Nov. 23.

The cast of the Sunshine Group appearing in the Lutfisk program Nov. 25 was Darlene, Bill, Sharon, Magna, Greta, Warren, Rod, Brenda and Rod as well as Nicky, Paul and Tim. Stan Hafso carried the Sons of Norway flag. Del Melsness was at the piano. Irene Hovde was program coordinator.

ICELANDIC Newsletter

By Lillian MacPherson

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, December 4—Executive meeting at the home of Eleanor Farrell, 12257 Dovercourt Ave., 8:00 p.m.  
Sunday, December 10 — Christmas Party at 2:00 p.m. in the Nordic Room of the Scandinavian Centre. Come and join in with the children to celebrate the coming of Christmas.  
Monday, January 1 — Is the due date for memberships. A membership in the Icelandic Society guarantees receipt of the Scandinavian Centre News, and provides a phone call to tell you of coming events for the membership. If you appreciate these services, buy your membership at the Christmas Party or from any executive member, or send the form hereunder to the Membership Chairman, Beulah Arason, 7615 Rowland Rd., Edmonton. It's \$2.00 for a single, and \$3.00 for a family.

Name.....  
Address.....  
Phone.....  
Enclosed find \$.....  
\*\*\*

What's been happening with Edmonton Icelanders:  
Ninna and Al Campbell's daughter, Margaret, was married to Raymond Albrecht on Oct. 28 in Beverly United Church. Margaret was attended by Marilyn Snider of Ponoka and Alice and Holly Albrecht, sisters of the groom. Raymond had Reg Minersky and Ron Albrecht, his brother, as attendants. After the ceremony, a reception was

held in Westwood Hall, with a dance following. Margaret and Raymond are living in Edmonton.  
Ingolf Bjarnason returned from a holiday in Iceland to attend his granddaughter's wedding. He also took the opportunity to visit with his daughters, Nina Campbell and Hulda Yelic. He then returned to Brandon.  
Five of the Saga Singers performed at International Night at the Unitarian Church — Al Arnason, Marino Kristjanson, Shirley Thorvaldson and Lillian MacPherson did the singing, and Gunnar Thorvaldson did the introducing and explaining.

The Saga Singers performed at the Good Samaritan Nursing Home in Edmonton as a Christmas gift to the residents. Margaret Geppert gave a fine talk on Icelandic poets in Canada who wrote in their mother tongue at the Scandinavian Centre on Nov. 5. Margaret, who comes from Calgary, has done a great deal of research, and it was really good of her to share her findings with us. She gave each person at the talk translations of one poem of each of the poets she discussed. She provided interesting historical and personal information about each poet, and indicated the kinds of poetry they wrote. This very informative talk followed a pot luck dinner and good fellowship with the many families who attended. Thanks to Shirley Thorvaldson and her committee for organizing such a pleasant affair.

Mary Lou Matthias from Red Deer came with Margaret Geppert for the evening.  
Congratulations to Don Shaw who has a new position with the City of Edmonton. He begins Dec. 1 as Risk Manager.  
And on that happy note, have a wonderful holiday season, and best wishes for the new year.

DANISH READING

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(Left to right) Mrs. Martha Venoasen, Mrs. Olga McBride, Mrs. Astrid Hope, Mrs. Eleanor Anderson and Mrs. Betty Anderson.

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MEN'S & LADIES' HIGH TRIPLES  
Thore Seluig.....806  
Doreen Melsness.....671

MEN'S & LADIES' HIGH AVERAGES  
Thore Seluig.....210  
Betty McKevitt.....199

HIGH TEAM SINGLE  
Norsemens .....1096

HIGH TEAM TRIPLE  
Troll.....3013

Our next correspondent will be Brenda Letendre — Phone 476-1683.  
Let's try to get a bit more news for our readers!

Christmas is that word that casts a magic spell over children of all ages. Whether you are one year old or ninety, Christmas turns on a glow in your year. Let this glow burn brightly; the world needs its warmth.

I understand Santa Claus didn't have enough to go around last year. Too many kids hung up stretch sox.

I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year. —Dickens

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# VASA LODGE SKANDIA



BY PAT HYDE

The November meeting of Vasa Lodge Skandia was chaired by Leonard Eliasson on Sat., Nov. 4 at 7:00 p.m.

Two new members were initiated into the Lodge—Mr. Eric Landberg and Mr. Ford Bergwall.

Vasa members were informed that John Jarrott and Ottar Sund have been ill recently. A get-well wish is extended to you both.

It was decided at the meeting that a birthday greeting in the form of a telegram be sent to King Gustav VI Adolf of Sweden. King Gustav celebrated his 90th birthday on Nov. 11.

Following the meeting, members were treated to a few games of Bingo—thanks to Glen Hallen for co-ordinating the activity.

\*\*\*

## SMORGASBORD NIGHT

All those people who contributed to the success of the annual Swedish Smorgasbord on Oct. 28 are to be commended for their efforts.

The Vasa Ladies, under the leadership of Mrs. Betty Pearson, prepared a tremendous meal and did an excellent job of keeping platters filled for hungry guests! At 8:00 p.m. the entertainment got started with a variety show hosted by Eric Landberg. Many talented people took part, as well as the colorful Vasa Dancers.

Dancing followed at 9:00 p.m. with two bands playing. There was something for everyone, with the "upstairs" band playing traditional music, and the "downstairs" band performing more

modern numbers.

\*\*\*

## COMING EVENTS

The Children's Party will take place on Sun., Dec. 10 at 7:00 p.m. in the Scandinavian Centre. All children of Vasa members are invited to the festivities, which will include the Swedish tradition of dancing 'round the Christmas tree . . . P.S. . . . an invitation has been sent to Santa and it's quite certain he'll accept!

The Ladies Auxiliary will hold their next meeting in January 1973. For further details, contact Betty Pearson in the New Year.

\*\*\*

## THIS 'N' THAT

With winter upon us and the Christmas season approaching, activities are slowing down. A couple of items, though, from the Weiss family.

Barbara and Barry Weiss are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Twila Jean, on Oct. 31. This makes Emil and Millie Weiss grandparents for the third time. Congratulations! . . . Millie Weiss has motored recently to the states of Wisconsin and Minnesota. As well as visiting relatives, she travelled to Trade Lake, Wis., the birthplace of her father.

\*\*\*

As this is our last Vasa column for 1972, I'd like to say "thank you" to all those members who have so willingly submitted items and helped to make the news.

GOD JUL!

# SHORTER WORK WEEK

The Board of Industrial Relations has been given authority to accept and approve individual applications for a shortened work week in Alberta.

The authority is contained in a new regulation, approved by Cabinet, under the Alberta Labour Act.

Manpower and Labour Minister, the Hon. Dr. Bert Hohol, said the Board of Industrial Relations considered it important that it be given the authority to accept and approve individual applications as considerable public interest in the shortened work week has been generated in recent months. At present, the Board has a number of applications pending on file and inquiries are coming in at a rate of about 10 per week.

There are basically two types of operations that could facilitate shortened work weeks:

1. Continuous operations such as gas plants, refineries and hospitals. Employees presently working 8 hour daily shifts would move to a maximum of 12 hour daily shifts with no overall increase in total hours worked. The

shift worker would receive a considerable benefit in additional leisure time.

2. Manufacturing plants and associated operations. As an example, a trailer manufacturing plant at Airdrie operating at present on the basis of 5, 8 hour days could establish 4, 10 hour shifts per week providing all employees with 3-day weekends. Not only would the employee enjoy additional leisure time and save on automobile expenses, but the employer would also greatly benefit from a reduction of overhead expenses.

It will be the policy of the board to ensure that the employer and his employees are taking all necessary steps to ensure that the additional daily hours of work will not cause a health or safety hazard to such employees.

The impetus for the shortened work week developed in the United States and has moved to Canada within the last year. The provinces of Ontario, Manitoba and Saskatchewan presently permit employers and their employees to work shortened work weeks with extended daily hours by approval of individual applications.

# NORWEGIAN TRAVEL GRANT

From News Of Norway

The Norwegian Foreign Ministry will in 1973 award a travel grant of \$1500 to a member of the Society for the Advancement of Scandinavian Study teaching Norwegian subjects at a university or college in the United States or Canada. The object of the award is to assist such a teacher to visit Norway to pursue her or his professional

interest in Norwegian life. Within this general limitation the award may be used in accordance with personal interests and preferences.

It should be noted that the travel grant may be awarded not only to teachers of Norwegian courses but also to teachers who deal with Norwegian conditions as part of other courses.

The Norwegian Foreign

Ministry and the Norwegian Information Service in the United States will be happy to give every assistance in the planning of the award winner's visit to Norway.

Applications for the travel grant are to be sent by February 1st, 1973, to:

The Norwegian Information Service in the United States  
825 Third Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022.

NINTH ANNUAL

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Glowing candles in crown of Swedish Lucia herald "return" of sun. Lucia Day — December 13, when daylight hours are nearly shortest — traditionally calls for coffee served at dawn. Palace guardsman pauses for cup. (Photo: American Swedish News Exchange, 8 East 69th St., New York, N.Y.)

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## RONNING LODGE

By Doreen Anderson

A dance will be held on Sat., Dec. 16 at the Masonic Hall in Camrose. Music is by Ruby Keehn's orchestra. This dance is open to all members and guests. Admission is \$2.50 per person. Plan now to attend.

The Christmas Party will be held on Sun., Dec. 10 at 2 p.m. in the CLC Cafeteria. This is for all ages so do plan to come. There will be entertainment, bags for the kiddies and, of course, Santa will be there. Kids, make sure you bring Dad and Mom. Ladies, please bring a small amount of your Christmas baking.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Herman Torpe who celebrated their 55th Wedding Anniversary in October. Also belated birthday greetings to Mr. Torpe who was 84 years young on Oct. 27. Best wishes to you both.

Wishes for a speedy recovery to Anne Thompson who is confined to the University Hospital in Edmonton.

This being the last news before Christmas I would like at this time to wish you all a Merry Christmas and the best for the coming year.

## THE HOLLY

Because holly grows in most parts of the world, for centuries it has been used as a decoration at festivals. In ancient times people believed that anyone who wore a wreath made of the berries would be gifted with second sight. Holly bears fruit and stays green in winter. Thus, it became a symbol of immortality. During the rise of the early church, many Christmas legends were linked to holly. One says that holly spoke to Moses in the wilderness. Another has it that because the holly hid Jesus from Herod's soldiers during the flight into Egypt, it was blessed with green leaves all winter. In certain early yule celebrations holly represented the male and ivy the female. Whichever was brought into the house first at Christmas told whether the husband or the wife would rule the home for the next year. Few of these legends persist today. Holly has become a part of the traditional Christmas decoration, and its beauty needs no further explanation.

## News from Sweden

By Ove Kampe

### THE LAPPS—THE SWEDISH INDIANS—IN COURT ACTION AGAINST THE SWEDISH STATE

A great court action has started in Ostersund, Sweden. The question is: Who owns the Swedish mountains in the north of Sweden—the State or the Lapps? This action is especially dealing with some mountains in Jemtland, but this is only the beginning to the very great question about the ownership of the Swedish mountains and lakes in the north.

The Lapps, who are the original inhabitants in the north of Sweden, declare that they have the ownership. No, the Lapps are only the inhabitants of these mountains, the State representatives declare. Both sides are referring to different old original texts.

The problems are many because the knowledge of old times is small. These mountains have also belonged to both Norway and Sweden. In earlier times the kings were not so interested in the northern territory because it was wild. So in the north the border between Norway and Sweden wasn't fixed until 1751.

The north of Scandinavia is the last great wild territory in Europe. The original inhabitants were the Lapps, a nomad people who followed their reindeers to the mountains in the summer and back to the forest area in the winter. From the many lakes they could get fine fish.

In the 17th century the Swedish

king gave privileges to some persons to carry on fur trading and to collect the special taxes from the Lapps. However, gradually the Swedes began to move northwards and they cultivated the land. Of course, it came into conflict between them and the Lapps and they have become greater and greater.

In the 19th century the forests became very valuable and much iron ore was found. In the 20th century many waterfalls have been built and the fishing grounds have been polluted. And the reindeer have been disturbed when the land was exploited. Clearings have been built through the wilderness and the trees have been cut.

The situation is similar to that of the Indians in North America after the arrival of the Europeans. Who owns the Swedish mountains and lakes in the north of Sweden? This action will go to the Supreme Court and perhaps to the International Court.

Can nomads own the land which they don't cultivate? Can they own the lakes? Ought the Lapps have special rights which other Swedes do not? Has the State the right to build clearings through the areas where the reindeer are living?

That's only some of the difficult questions. Today there are about ten thousand Lapps in Sweden. The future of the "Swedish Indians" is dependent on the result of the court action now under way.

## I CANNOT BUT REMEMBER

By Lenore Sills

Years ago, at a Lutfisk dinner at the Masonic Temple, I met a most remarkable and unforgettable lady. I have not seen her for awhile but she is one of those rare souls who leave an indelible print on those they touch. I met her periodically over the years, often at the wonderful Lutfisk dinner where she was happily busy organizing the most enjoyable program which always followed. What I admired so much was her marvelous enthusiasm, and belief in people. I always came away from her feeling better.

Although Mrs. Mina McDonald can't be with us in person this season, I have the feeling that somewhere her great spirit is smiling at the life she seemed to love. She seemed to say . . . "Life isn't always any picnic, but it's great! It's for living!" and

she seemed to generate a very special courage. I want to take this time to put into a poem what she said silently to me. She died on Oct. 8, but she left a memory.

Perhaps this expresses it:

Beyond this day,  
This flaming sunset,  
Wonder,  
Look to the stars,  
Child,  
They are yours for the reaching,  
No stair too steep,  
No mountainside unscalable.  
Find there  
The Challenge  
That is yours to meet.  
Yours!  
Is the temple high to build,  
And yours!  
The cross . . .  
For God speaks!  
In the thunder  
Of living!

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# News From The Danish Church

By Pastor O. Filtenborg

The new church year begins the 1st Sunday in Advent, Dec. 3. The service that day will begin with a ceremony where our young people will light the candles on the altar and the first candle in the "adventskrans". Each Sunday in Advent there will be lit one more candle.

At the service Sun., Dec. 17, the children from the Sunday School will show a Christmas play and sing Christmas Carols. On Christmas Eve, Sun., Dec. 24, there will be two Danish services at 2:30 and 4:00 p.m. The English Christmas service will be Christmas Day at 11 a.m. New Years Day the service (English) will be in the afternoon at 2:00. After the service a cup of coffee will be served.

From the Pastor's Report at the Annual Meeting: The past year there have been 22 baptisms, 15 weddings and 5 funerals. There were confirmed 6 children, but in the new class there are 20 children. The attendance at the services have been about the same as the year before. The attendance at the Danish services had gone down but the attendance at the English services have gone up.

We wish a merry Christmas and a happy New Year to all from the Danish Church. Thanks for all the support we have received the past year. A special greeting goes at this time of the year to all who are sick and lonesome.

## ON BOOKS AND ARTICLES

From News of Norway

ABC in Rosemaling, by Elsa Sjøvaag. This 37-page booklet on the Norwegian folk art of rose-painting gives a brief history and describes materials, recommended colors, techniques and designs. Numerous illustrations and detailed charts are included. (Published by Noni Forlag in Stavanger and available from the Arthur Vanous Co., One Richard Court, River Edge, New Jersey 07661. Price: \$3.50).

Nordic Touring and Cross Country Skiing, by M. Michael Brady. This is the third revised edition of this essential little book for the growing number of participants in Nordic ski touring. It discusses technique, equipment, waxing and clothing and includes series of photos which demonstrate the different strides and turns. Paperback. 92 pp. Printed in the U.S. (Published by Dreyers Forlag, Oslo and available from the Arthur Vanous Co., address above, at the price \$2.95).

Norway Exports, No. 4, 1972. This colorful issue is devoted to handicrafts and giftware and includes color photographs and brief descriptions of various items, as well as the addresses of producers. 40 page magazine. (Published by the Export Council of Norway, and available from the Council's U.S. office at 290 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017).

# DANIA DOINGS

By Lili Nielsen

Wednesday, December 13 — "DANIA'S" ANNUAL TURKEY BINGO.

Come and bring your friends too. They are all welcome—the more the merrier. You may be the lucky one to bring home your turkey, goose or even a duck for your Christmas Dinner. Be sure to attend. Mark your calendar now for this important event.

There will be NO Whist Drive in December, but remember the next date—January 16, 1973, for Whist.

"BIKUBEN" will hold their annual Christmas Party on Dec. 18. Hope all the ladies will show up so we can have a good time together. The ladies are to bring a little gift and some of your goodies for us to taste. The meeting will be at 12424 141 St. at 7:30 p.m. Looking forward to seeing you all. If you like, bring a friend, but have her bring a little gift, too, so nobody gets left out.

"DANIA" held their annual general meeting on Oct. 25. The newly elected Directors are as follows:

- President — Claus Jacobsen, 489-1494  
Vice - President — Thomas Nielsen, 489-5175  
Treasurer — Borge Hansen, 484-4383  
Secretary — Lili Nielsen, 435-5655  
Members at Large—Per Nielsen, 436-4109  
Svend Christensen, 476-5934  
Alfred Baumann, 479-1429

Substitutes — Erik Landsperg and Ruth Aaquist  
Auditors — Tage Aaquist and Ole Hansen

Keep this date in mind—ANNUAL NEW YEARS DANCE—January 6, 1973. Get your tickets early from any of the Board members. Deadline for tickets—December 30. See advertisement in this issue.

A very Merry Christmas to all and a good and prosperous New Year. Glædelig Jul.

Have you renewed your Membership for 1973? If not, please send for it right away. The price is \$5.00 per year for single or family. Use this coupon to send it to the Secretary, Mrs. Lili Nielsen, 3903 111A St., Edmonton, Alberta, T6J 1G2.

NAME.....  
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ZONE.....PHONE.....

In memory of the accession to the Throne of Her Majesty, Queen Margrethe II, a coin will be minted. The Danish Consulate has been approached to make this coin available to anyone interested. The price for the coin has been fixed at 32.00 Danish Kroners (equal to approximately \$4.60). Monies obtained from the sale of these coins are to be distributed among humanitarian institutions including the Danish Red Cross. Anyone interested, please contact the following: Danish Consulate, 469-1224; Pastor O. Filtenborg, 469-6123 and Mrs. Lili Nielsen, 435-5655.

# NORDSTJARNAN NEWS

By Phyllis Tapio

The monthly meeting of Nordstjarnan Lodge No. 575 was held at the home of Dale Havanka on Nov. 4. Following the meeting a Wine and Cheese Party was held. Thank you to the members of the committee who were in charge of arranging for the event. Also congratulations to Rose Krause and Oscar Sjolín who were the winners of the raffle.

It was nice to see Gertrude Dickau of Calgary in attendance for the meeting.

Congratulations to Stan and Louise Torvinen of Drayton Valley on the birth of a daughter, Kimberly Pauline.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Tangen and Mr. and Mrs. Harold Grindu of Swift Current, Sask. were recent visitors with Carl and Lena Brown and Olga Brown. They enjoyed a lovely pot-luck dinner at the home of Cliff and Mona Robins. Also present were Herbert and Bertil Brown and Jack and Denis Brown.

A pot-luck dinner was held at the home of Oliver and Bert Olson of Wetaskiwin on Sun., Oct. 29, when relatives gathered to welcome Bertil and Elizabeth Sjolín who were visiting from Stockholm, Sweden.

You take one look at those lines at the Post Office—and you can understand why Santa Claus delivers his presents in person.

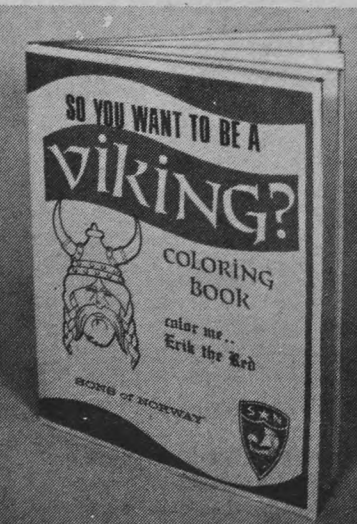
Every Christmas is the same. Wouldn't it be wonderful if something different happened this year? Like 200 soldiers at a lonely post in the Aleutians, volunteering to fly down to Los Angeles to entertain Bob Hope?

Present were Mayme Reid, Vivian Proch and daughter, Metro Petruk, Herbert and Edna Nelson, all of Edmonton; Stanley Olson and family of Leduc; Leonard Olson and family, Archie and Phyllis Olson, Norman Olson, Elton and Bernice Garbe, Mrs. Amy Olson (grand aunt of Bertils), Bernie Radke and family, Olga and Denis Brown, all of Wetaskiwin.

Bertil and Elizabeth speak English very fluently. They are spending 7 weeks in America, having spent time in Minnesota, Spokane, Wash., Vancouver, Vernon, Edmonton and other places. They have enjoyed seeing the country and seeing their relatives.

John Holmlund wishes to say "Thank you" to all the Vasa members who visited him and for the cards, flowers and fruit he received during his stay in University Hospital, Edmonton.

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ONE AND ALL!



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THE BIG PARADE of open sandwiches in one of the 24-hour sandwich shops in Copenhagen. One of the local restaurants features a variety of more than 700 different open sandwiches. (Photo: Danish National Tourist Office.)

## THE MELODY LARK

In the sandbox the children are busy at play—  
I watch from my window—wide open today.  
It is springtime. The pear tree is lovely with bloom,  
And the lilacs contribute a heady perfume.

From the maple tree suddenly bursts a sweet strain

Of gladness, repeated again and again.  
The children are listening.  
Johnny says, "Hark!  
I know who is singing: a Melody Lark!"

"You mean a meadow lark, don't you?" "Oh, no!  
It's a melody lark—my Grandpa said so.  
One day we heard one while down

in the park,  
And Grandpa said, 'Listen! A Melody Lark!'"

I smiled to myself at his childish mistake,  
As I answered the summons to dig and to rake.  
Entranced with his music, I worked until dark,  
To the gay melody of the Melody Lark.



# GOTLAND-A TOURISTS' PARADISE

BY ELIZABETH WENGBERG

When you plan your next trip to Scandinavia, save a few days to visit Gotland. This small island in the Baltic Sea is a tourists' paradise. Its rich culture, varied flora and fauna, delightful climate and warm, friendly people make it an exciting place to visit. Coming from the prairies, at about the same latitude, I was most impressed by the delightful climate and the abundantly rich vegetation. Also, one soon notices and awes at the beautiful roses and rock structures, both natural and man made. The neatly kept homes and farm yards indicate the pride of the people of Gotland.

Five short hours from Nynashamn by ferry brings you to the city of Visby, Gotland's only city, and Europe's only walled city. My first impression of Visby with its unique wall was one of surprise and fascination. The many red tiled roofs blend in beautifully with the lush green of the many trees and climbing vines. I found the cobblestone streets somewhat difficult to walk on but was impressed with the cleanliness of the city. The

many delightful little shops will supply you with your every need. A knowledge of the Swedish language would be helpful but not necessary. Even in the small shops, in the smaller towns and villages, there is usually someone with whom you can communicate in English which is taught in school beginning at the fourth grade.

There are many interesting things to do while in Visby. A day at the museum allows one to study the technological development of mankind. The museum contains many tools and utensils from past ages, some date from 2000 B.C. all of which are attractively displayed. Take your time as you tour the museum and enjoy a few minutes rest in the inner court yard. An English guide book acquired at the entrance will be of great assistance to you.

Careful timing of your visit would allow you to attend the Visby Festival. This unique performance, held annually during the months of July and August tells the story, in opera, of Petrus de Dacia, who was, during the 13th century the Prior of the very church in which this opera is performed. It is an emotional experience and no knowledge of Swedish is necessary. Bring along a cushion and a blanket as it is held in the evening in the open ruins of the church and monastery of St. Nikolaus.

From Visby there are many bus tours to places of interest but if you wish to travel on your own any tourist bureau will supply you with information in the language of your choice. Places we found most interesting included the caves at Lummelunda. These deep underground passageways are an open book to the student of geology and archaeology. A guided tour of the caves takes one back 450 million years in time and you can study the geological formations.

The ruins of the wall at Torsburgen lets one glimpse at the determination and self preservation of our ancestors. This manmade fortification dates from the year 400 A.D. A hike along the wall will wet your appetite

for the picnic lunch you brought along. A refreshing swim at one of the many beaches along the coast is a relaxing way to finish your day.

On your way to Hoburgen, the southern most tip of the island, take time to visit at Kattlunds. These ancient buildings date from medieval times and allow us to take a step back in time and visualize the life style of people before electricity, water systems and all those conveniences which we consider essential. At Hoburgen you can see the power of water as its mighty force has washed away the softer parts leaving odd shaped rock structures facing the sea.

The people of Gotland take great pride in their horses. These Viking ponies, which the Gotlanders call Russ, roam freely the meadows at Ljosta. Many people have spent a great deal of time and money to preserve the Gotland Russ and keep the breed true to form. Include a competition in your schedule. You'll enjoy watching these gentle little ponies being put through their paces and being judged for breeding characteristics.

The island is noted for its many churches. Over 90 churches, dating from the 13th century dot the island, and one is never far from a place of worship. These are state churches and are very beautiful. Each community has a church and it would appear that each community tried to do one better than the other with regard to size, structure and decoration. The interior decoration is remarkably beautiful. Although the churches appear to be very similar, no two are alike. We visited some 15 of them and found

each to be unique in some way. Most of these churches are active parishes today and a Sunday morning service is an interesting experience.

If you are a souvenir hound, and who isn't, you'll find many shops where you can purchase many interesting and different articles. Among those I found most unique and typical of Gotland include woolen goods, replica grist mills, rock and marble goods, pewter, gold, copper and wooden articles.

Gotland is noted for its fine wool. The sheep have been carefully bred to produce a species which is grey in color. A sheepskin rug would be so cosy on a cold winter morning. The old grist mills, powered by wind, are found over much of the island. Some have deteriorated and lay in ruin, others have been carefully preserved and some have even been purchased and converted into attractive summer cottages. The many articles of wood are made from a species of juniper which produces very strong, fibrous branches. These branches were at one time used to tie the cross boards to the upright posts in wooden fences. Today many kitchen utensils—spoons, butter paddles—are made from it. We found a beer mug to be both a typical and a useful souvenir. Of course, the most natural souvenirs and ones that cost only a little of your time are the fossils. The seashore is rich in fossils and many rare and interesting ones can be found as you stroll along the beach.

As the island is only 35 miles wide at the widest, one is never very far from the sea. Even if you are not a fisherman at

heart, a fishing trip is a must. Fishing boats, complete with guide and gear, can be rented for a small fee. If luck is with you a cod will take your hook or a flounder will become trapped in your net. Don't neglect a chance to go fishing in the warm water of the Baltic Sea.

A 45 minute scenic cruise to Stora Karlso is a rich experience. This island, the larger of two islands, off the west coast of Gotland is only six kilometers (3.7 miles) long and is a haven for birds. Many species of birds nest annually on the cliffs of Stora Karlso. As no one lives on the island, other than the keeper of the lighthouse, it is an ideal location to study the habits of the birds. Make sure you visit the island early in the summer as many species migrate from the island in mid August. The flora of the island is also very interesting, some of it resembling tropical species. A guided tour of the island is both interesting and invigorating. We found the climate to be quite humid, so enjoyed the rest period in the coolness of the cave. Within this cave has been found evidence—bones, pottery and the like—which indicates that it was inhabited by man during the Stone Age.

Become a Gotlander for a few days. Enjoy the relaxed pace of life, the climate and most of all the food. The many ways of serving herring and flounder are interesting and so delicious. The great variety of breads and cakes served with hot delicious coffee will enable you to forget your diet for awhile. Allow the environment to work its magic, and you'll enjoy Gotland.

## IN MEMORY OF SIVERT INGEMANN HAFSO

Submitted by Amelia (Molly) Cooper (Daughter)

Sivert Ingemann Hafso was born in Egersund, Norway, on Sept. 8, 1884. On April 19, 1902, he boarded a ship at Stavanger bound for America. Port of entry was Boston, Mass. After many more days of travel he arrived in North Dakota on May 5.

Sivert Hafso worked on a farm in North Dakota but in the fall of 1903 he and Ole Sorensen ventured out again. This time to Alberta. In Edmonton, Sivert worked in a sawmill and earned good money. He was able to save while paying only one dollar a day for room and board.

At Christmas 1907, Sivert went home to Norway for a visit. While there he became engaged to Miss Hanna Fotland. She also was born in Egersund, on Oct. 11, 1888. Three years later, she set out by ship from Stavanger, landing in Montreal, and after a long train ride arrived in Edmonton on June 15, 1910. The following day, June 16, 1910, Sivert Hafso and Hanna Fotland were united in marriage. The young couple went directly to the area LSD30-T48-S12-W4M near Viking, Alta., to start farming. They remained there till they moved into the town of Viking in November 1953.

To this union twelve children—6 boys and 6 girls—were born. All of them are living and are: Amelia Cooper, John Hafso, Harriet Shaver, Signe McKill, Anna Vyse, Herman Hafso, Edith Sherwin, Arnold Hafso, Gordon and Stanley—twins, Roy Hafso and Gladys Evans. There are now 42 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

Sivert Hafso became a British subject on Jan. 5, 1907, and a Canadian citizen Aug. 13, 1948.

In order for the children to get their education, Lake Thomas School was built in 1907. It was the only school for miles around. A Norwegian teacher was hired and the Norwegian language was used in classes. A barn was also built as the children rode horseback to school in the summertime and went by sleigh in the wintertime.

In 1909, a church was built. Sivert Hafso was a charter member. The cornerstone was laid on June 12, 1909. Although it acquired an English name—Golden Valley Lutheran—the Norwegian language was mainly spoken. In the middle 1930s it was switched to English. Unfortunately, on New Year's eve, 1930, this church burned to the ground. By the following spring, however, a new one was built.

Rev. H. T. Egedahl, Rev. A. E. Hanson, Rev. N. R. J. Braa, Rev. T. T. Boe, Rev. I. J. Saugen, Rev. J. B. Stolee, Rev. J. Precht, Rev. A. Berstad and Rev. Spooheim were ministers having served this church.

A modern parsonage was built in 1947 and a new Hammond organ was installed in 1953.

The Hafso farm produced mainly grain and cattle. The cows and horses were required to stay outside all winter—quite in contrast to Norway.

Viking was officially named in 1908 after the railroad was built. Gabriel Sorensen suggested the name of Viking. Someone else suggested the name Harland. After much discussion and the Federal Government having the final say, the Vikings won.

Sivert and Hanna Hafso did much to preserve the Norwegian language and traditions. They corresponded and visited relatives and friends over the years making 4 trips to their homeland. In 1967 Mr. Hafso made his 6th trip.

They have both passed on now—Mrs. Hafso in 1966 and Mr. Hafso in 1970, but because of their many contributions to Viking, to Alberta and to Canada, they are gone but not forgotten.

\*\*\*

Mrs. Amelia (Molly) Cooper lives at 8341 82 Ave., Edmonton. Phone No. 466-5565.

## Danish Beer Brewed Locally

Danish "Carlsberg" beer is now being brewed locally. A Promotion was held at the Edmonton Inn Crystal Ballroom on Nov. 14. The evening had a Danish theme, entertainment was provided by the Olaf Sveen Orchestra, with Irene Hovde singing songs like: "Wonderful Copenhagen", "Ut Etter Ol", "Hansens Enke", "Skaal, Skaal, Skaal".

There was plenty of Carlsberg

beer served from two bars, and a delicious Smorgasbord supper was on the table. There were about 250 people present, and at the end of the evening everyone got "Carlsberg" souvenirs to take home, such as beer glasses, ashtrays, etc. There were also door prizes and two couples won free trips to Copenhagen. Many people went home humming "Wonderful Copenhagen" that night.



STAN HAFSO

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# BUFORD VASA LODGE

By Ruth E. Eklund

We regret to report the passing this month of Mr. Emil Kvarnberg. Br. Kvarnberg will long be remembered and sadly missed as he was always cheerful and willing to lend a hand. Our sincere sympathy goes out to his wife and family.

We extend our sympathy also to Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Johnson and family on the death this week of Bernard's sister, Mrs. Amy Bentley.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Pearson spent last weekend visiting Glenn's aunt and uncle in Montana.

Best wishes to Mrs. Fjaller, Johnson who was a patient in hospital this week.

Mrs. Marie Falk of Vancouver spent this weekend with Alf and Helga Hoyem.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. George Modin who celebrated their wedding anniversary this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Helge Erickson motored to Seattle this week. Esther plans to spend a month with her mother who has been ill. Helge and Esther have recently moved into their new home in Calmar.

Mr. Alf Hayem has spent the better part of this month at Chip Lake where he has been commercial fishing.

Mrs. Emil Kvarnberg spent a few days at the home of her daughter, Verna Larson, and family of Edmonton.

Sympathy is extended to Mr. Albin Markstedt whose brother passed away recently at Kusmark, Sweden.

At this month's meeting a lovely pancake supper was enjoyed by all, as well as films shown by Mr. and Mrs. Elwin Wold.

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## SONS OF NORWAY CULTURAL REPORT



ASTRID HOPE. Program October 14th, 2:30 p.m., "Salute to Alberta's Ethnic Groups" at Northgate Shopping Centre.

By Astrid Hope  
Asst. Cultural Director

The Norwegian display won 1st prize at Northgate when on Oct. 12, 13 & 14 the Ladies Sewing and Cultural Group responded to the Northgate Shopping Centre merchants' invitation to "Salute to Alberta's Ethnic Groups".

Mr. H. A. Schmid, Minister of Youth, Culture and Recreation, officiated at the opening ceremonies Thurs., Oct. 12 at 1 p.m., followed by a tour of exhibits by the surrounding area school children.

Mr. Schmid commented that the exhibits were the most interesting and well done he had seen in the province. The exhibits included numerous samples of Norwegian handicrafts—knitting, weaving, rosemaling, etc.—and Norwegian specialty wares like pewter, enamel, silver, etc., but the determining factor that earned the Sewing Club the top prize was the great number of platters of special Norwegian baking and the display of the corresponding irons and equipment used for the baking, like krumkager and lefse for example. That showed tremendous interest to the young and old. To many it was moments of nostalgia.

Besides there were 4 to 6 ladies in costume in attendance at display booths every day store hours.

There were about 7 other ethnic groups participating. The Polish group and Hungarian group won 2nd and 3rd prize respectively.

The time for the Norwegian concert was Sat. at 2:30 p.m. There was a repeat of the Norwegian Costume Show held on "Syttende Mai" at the Scandinavian Centre with Sister Selma Sorenson being commentator. At intervals there were musical numbers given by Sons of Norway Queen (with all regalia) Sister Darlene Melsness, Sister Irene Hovde, Brother Magnar Bjorsvik and were accompanied by Brother Del Melsness at the organ. Sister Irene Hovde accompanied for several numbers at the harpsicord that she acquired on her trip to Norway this summer.

at the Highland's Branch Library with a talk on different Norwegian customs, especially at Christmas time and had a platter of various Norwegian baking on display along with the different irons. The last half of the program was open to recipes that were requested by the listeners. There was a real great interest shown and the time allotted was only too short.

\*\*\*

"On behalf of the Sewing Club and Cultural Club we wish to thank everyone who participated in any way to "The Salute to Ethnic Groups" by their artifacts, time and talents which all helped to make the event the interesting and successful event that it was."

Director Cultural Club Sister D. Melsness  
Assistant Director Cultural Club Sister A. Hope  
President Sewing Club Sister A. Hope

\*\*\*

On Oct. 19 Sister Astrid Hope presented the Mother's Group

On Oct. 28 the members of the Sewing Club responded to the annual United Nations Multi-cultural Festival at the Polish Hall. It was another successful evening and "which surpassed the Association's wildest expectations". For the smorgasbord, the ladies, in costume, were hostesses to Norwegian meat-balls and the famous lefse. There were 17 different ethnic groups participating that evening in either the smorgasbord or program, which extended to another 45 minutes due to considerable interest shown by more groups. Thanks, Ladies.



Exhibit Table — October 12-14 — "Salute to Alberta's Ethnic Group", Northgate Shopping Centre.



They start 'em young in Norway! Picture from Geilo Ski School at Geilo, popular ski resort on the Oslo-Bergen railroad. (Photo from Norwegian National Tourist Office.)

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TULIP DANISH SLICED BACON.....95¢ lb.  
MACKEREL FILLETS IN TOMATO SAUCE.....2 tins - 65¢

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# NORWEGIAN SEAMEN'S WAR SERVICE

Seamen Who Sailed In The Norwegian Merchant Marine During The Last War To Receive Ex Gratia Payments

## PROVISIONS

Provisions concerning rules for payment to Norwegian seamen who sailed abroad in the war in the period from 1 July 1940 up to and including 30 June 1945 and concerning the execution of payments.

### I

1. Norwegian seamen who sailed in Nortraship in the period from 1 July 1940 up to and including 30 June 1945 are to receive an ex gratia payment of 180 kroner per month of service.

1.1 In this connection by 'Norwegian seamen' is meant seamen who were Norwegian nationals during the war or who later acquired Norwegian nationality.

1.2 By 'seamen' is meant persons who were engaged to and signed on a ship in the Merchant Navy in any capacity on board.

1.3 As sea service for Nortraship is regarded service performed outside the enemy blockaded zone (sperrersonen) on board ships where the seamen were subject to the same tariff conditions as applied on board ships under Nortraship.

1.4 As time of service is regarded service as stated under sub-section 1.3 Fifteen days or more of a calendar month are counted as one full month of service, while fourteen days or less are not counted. Where the cause of signing off was illness or the result of shipwreck, up to 2 months subsequent to the date of signing off is to be added to the total time of service unless new engagement and signing on took place within said period. Where there is some other reason for signing off, up to 2 months of the period when the seaman in question received either pool allowance or remuneration for time off is to be counted, reckoned from the date of signing off. The time of service is to include any time in which the seaman concerned may have received detention allowance (fangenskapslønn), as well as temporary service on board Allied ships by command of the Norwegian authorities.

2. If the seaman concerned is deceased leaving a spouse, the sum due is payable to the spouse.

2.1 As surviving spouse is regarded the person who was married to the seaman in question at the time of the seaman's death, regardless of whether the person concerned has later remarried. If such payment would lead to obvious unreasonable results, for example where the seaman in question has been

married more than once and particularly where there are children from these marriages, this rule may be modified and payment may be made in accordance with further directives which are to be laid down by the Ministry of Commerce.

3. If the spouse also is deceased, the sum due is payable to the children of the deceased seaman, or to the seaman's parents in the event of the seaman having died without issue.

3.1 In questions concerning who is/are the deceased seaman's child(ren) or parents the same rules as in the Norwegian law of inheritance shall apply.

4. If the seaman leaves neither spouse, children nor parents, payment, may in quite exceptional cases be made to another person (or other persons), for example where the seaman in question has been cared for by brother(s) and/or sister(s) or others over a long period of time.

5. Claims under the Storting's decision of 27 April came into existence on the same date.

### II

1. The payments shall be administered by the Directorate for Seamen which decides to what extent submitted claims are to be met.

1.1 The Directorate for Seamen shall obtain the necessary information in order to determine the amount of the claim and who is entitled to receive payment.

1.2 The Directorate for Seamen will draw up a form to be completed in connection with claims for payment. Such forms

are to be placed on view in suitable public offices etc. as further decided by the Directorate.

1.3 Payments are to be made as decided by the Directorate for Seamen, preferably by post giro.

1.4 In cases where a seaman receives a war pension and where this is paid over to someone other than the person entitled to it, payments under the present rules shall be made according to the same guidelines as for the war pension (administration).

1.5 Payments due to claimants born in 1905 or earlier shall, as far as possible, be accorded priority ahead of others.

### III

Any complaints regarding payments made in accordance with the Storting's decision of 27 April 1972 and the present rules are to be directed to the Ministry of Commerce and addressed to the Directorate for Seamen.

### IV

The Ministry of Commerce may amend these rules, allow deviation from the rules and lay down further rules in accordance with the Storting's decision of 27 April 1972 concerning payments to be made to Norwegian seamen who sailed abroad in the years of war etc.

### V

These provisions enter into force from 1 September 1972.

Application forms for the above payments can be obtained from The Royal Norwegian Consulate, 6003 - 102A Avenue, Edmonton, Alberta.

## MERRY CHRISTMAS 1972!

By Lenore Sills

It's cooky baking time again, and we, at the Parkview Flea Market, wish to greet you and thank you all for taking an interest in us and joining in treasure hunting for those funny little tucked-in-out-of-the-way things that often turn up in the most unexpected places. But that is part of the adventure of living. Most of all, though, I want to tell you about the adventure we, at the Flea Market, enjoy in human relationships. This is the greatest adventure of all.

I told you in August something of what a Flea Market is. Now I'd like to tell you about one of our many special vendors.

Ruth Schmid and her husband, Alois, man the Kidney Patient's Association table. All the articles on the table are donated . . . the old candle sticks from aunt Martha's house take up room in your cupboard for example, but

would light with joy someone else's Christmas table. The old chocolate rabbit moulds you no longer use would be welcomed at the Schmid's table and perhaps purchased eagerly by a young mother for a Christmas cooky tree. In this way the proceeds from this table could bring a little happiness to some very sick person. Some of the money from the table might go for a Christmas party for the patients who live out their lives on the kidney machine, or perhaps purchase a new electric fan to help cool the kidney unit where so many courageous persons live three times a week hooked to an artificial kidney machine.

Ruth at the Flea Market is one of these. She feels happy when she knows there are people who care. That is what life is about. Mrs. Bacon, whose husband is the President of the Kidney Patient's Association, is a successful transplant patient, and Ruth Schmid hopes for a kidney whose tissue will match her own. She lost one kidney and her spleen last summer and her link to life lies in three weekly sessions of about eight hours each on the machine. Mostly though, the most wonderful thing is when you talk with her and for a little while she can forget that she is ill, and just be a warm wonderful human being.

Yes, it's cooky baking time again and the kitchens of the land hold the fragrance of Christmas past, Christmas now, and Christmas future. It's from the warm kitchens of the land that ideas are born, from which men venture forth to the far flung corners of the earth with strength to overcome frustration and fear. It's in the warm kitchens of



## Kitchen Corner

Christmas comes to our house with mouth-watering treats.

### DANISH ROYALTIES

1 cup butter  
1/2 cup sugar  
4 egg yolks, hard cooked and mashed  
2 tsp. almond extract  
2 cups sifted all-purpose flour.

Cream butter, gradually add sugar, creaming well after each addition. Add mashed egg yolks and almond extract. Mix well. Add flour and blend well. Force dough through a cookie press onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake in 400-degree F. oven for ten to fifteen minutes. Yield: about 4 dozen.

### ALMOND CHEER BALLS

1 cup butter  
1/4 cup confectioners' sugar  
1 cup ground almonds  
1 tsp. vanilla  
2 cups sifted all-purpose flour  
18 candied cherries

Cream butter well. Add sugar gradually and cream until fluffy. Add the rest of the ingredients except cherries and mix well. Take a heaping teaspoonful of dough and start to form into balls. Push half a cherry into the ball and roll again in hands to make a complete ball. Bake on greased baking sheet in a 325-degree F. oven for 35 mins. While hot, roll in confectioners' sugar. Yield: 3 dozen.

### QUICK, EASY AND DELICIOUS FUDGE

2/3 cup canned milk (1 small can)  
1-1/2 cups marshmallows  
1 tsp. vanilla  
1/2 cup chopped nuts  
1-2/3 cups sugar  
1-1/2 cups semi-sweet chocolate chips  
Pinch of salt  
2 tbsp. butter

Mix butter, milk, sugar and salt in a saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Cook 5 minutes, stirring constantly.

Remove from heat. Stir in the marshmallows, chocolate chips, vanilla and nuts. Stir until the marshmallows melt. Pour into

the land that small fingers often fashion crude Christmas bells, ice gingerbread boys, make loving gifts, find comfort. It is there that the grown folk often come for refuge from life's storms. Happiness is being together with those you love, and perhaps the small baby in the Bethlehem manger loved cooky baking time, too, as He grew, for Jesus was human as well as Divine. To you, my friends, who have passed from the kitchens of childhood, remember them with love for the memory may bring you peace. To the little folk who have not yet travelled, cherish the kitchens in which you grow. To those of us who try to bring warmth to the kitchens, let us, at this Christmas, renew the love that shone from the eyes of that Star-bright Baby as He lay in His mother's arms.

And to all of you, wherever you are, may the light of that early Star find you and guide your path when the night becomes dark.

The year has been one of growth and accomplishment, in

a buttered 8-inch square pan. Cool and cut into squares.

### SHORTBREAD

2 cups flour  
1 cup butter  
1/2 cup icing sugar  
1/2 cup cornstarch  
1 tsp. vanilla

Mix well until mixture cracks. Put through a cookie press or roll out and cut into desired shapes. Bake in a slow oven until golden brown.

### CHRISTMAS MERINGUES

(about 6 dozen)

4 egg whites  
1-1/4 cups sugar  
1/3 cup coarsely chopped walnuts  
1/3 cup coarsely chopped pitted dates  
1/3 cup coarsely chopped candied cherries

Allow egg whites to warm to room temperature; then beat at high speed until soft peaks form when beater is slowly raised. Add sugar, 2 tbsp. at a time, beating well after each addition; continue beating until stiff peaks form when lifter is slowly raised. Fold in rest of ingredients. Drop mixture by teaspoonfuls, 1 inch apart on lightly greased cookie sheets. Bake at 300 degrees F. for 25-30 minutes or until faintly colored; cool on wire rack, then store in airtight container.

### NUTS AND BOLTS

Make your own nuts and bolts for the festive season.

1 box cheerios  
1 box shreds  
1 box pretzel sticks

Put in a roaster. Mix:

1/2 cup oil  
1/4 lb. butter  
4 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce  
1 tbsp. seasoned salt  
Garlic salt if desired.

Pour this mixture over the cereal and pretzels, mixing thoroughly. Bake in a slow oven at 250 degrees for one hour, stirring occasionally. 10 minutes before they are done add 1/2 lb. cashews and 1/2 lb. peanuts.

spite of its many mountains. We are grateful for its growth, but most of all we are grateful for health and the opportunity of helping others. We are grateful for friends, for the opportunity to work and play, freedom of thought and the opportunity to participate in the glory and adventure of living. For those of the world who are sad, troubled, hungry or bereft, we send our special prayers. Perhaps in our small way we can bring comfort to those who mourn or who are in any way despairing.

For the New Year . . . put your hand into the hand of God, and let your creative imagination glow like a warm candle to light the world around you. Amen! and Merry Christmas!

### WHEN CHRISTMAS COMES

By Mary Rose

When Christmas comes I like to think

Of shepherds and a star,  
Of the Christ Child and his sweet mother  
And wise men from afar.

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## FINNISH SOCIETY



BY ANNÉ SAHURI

Congratulations and best wishes to Mr. and Mrs. **Clarence Rama** of Ottawa, Ont. on the birth of their son on Oct. 26. Mrs. **Bertha Rama** went to Ottawa to visit the new grandchild and family.

\*\*\*

Mr. and Mrs. **Elo Koistinen** of Edmonton moved on Sept. 1 to Haney, B.C. where they stayed at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. **Ray Rama** and family. They are now making their home in Burnaby, B.C. which they are enjoying very much.

\*\*\*

Mrs. **Anja Leino** would like to thank **Finnish Society** for the lovely flowers she received while in hospital.

"A special thanks to those of my friends who came and celebrated my birthday beside my hospital bed, and who brought those lovely gifts and flowers. Thank you all." **Anja Leino.**

\*\*\*

Children's Christmas Party will be held on Dec. 3 starting at 2 p.m. at the Scandinavian Centre, Viking Room.

\*\*\*

Pastor **Antti Lepisto** visited Finnish people in Edmonton at the beginning of November and was here also with Pastor **Lauri Mustajoki** when he held a cottage evening on Thurs., Nov. 16, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. **Tony Salomaa**. Worship service was held on Nov. 17 at Augustana Lutheran Church with Pastor **Mustajoki** speaking. A cottage program was also held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. **L. Kuusela** on Nov. 12 where Pastor **Olaf Rankinen** showed slides of his work and the work of the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots.

\*\*\*

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. **A. Kuusisto** of Yellowknife, N.W.T. on the birth of their baby recently.

\*\*\*

Speedy recovery to Mrs. **Anja Leino** who was in hospital recently.

## Merry Christmas

What does Christmas mean to us? Does it mean only tinsel, bright lights, Christmas trees, gifts and merriment?

Christmas was intended to be a time of happiness. But it is also a time to pray, a time to give thanks, a time of genuine worship of the **Prince of Peace**, whose birth ushered in the true Christmas.

Take a few moments from your busy schedule and think of that first Christmas eve. It was a night of hardship, little shelter, fatigue and pain. But it was a night, also, of the hosts of heaven signing the greatest Christmas carol of all, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

## NEWS FROM FINLAND

### SUOMI SOCIETY

By Airi Langeste

The Finnish loghouse is doing well in the world market. The Finns are exporting them to Japan, Austria and Holland. The latest deal with Japan is worth about 22 million marks and 1.3 million marks with Austria and Holland, also some smaller deals with other countries.

The size of the loghouses varies from 25 to 160 square meters (81 to 520 square feet).

\*\*\*

The Canada goose is being transplanted to Finland. The first flock, 8 in all, were sent to Sweden eight years ago and today they have increased to 100 in southern Finland. Later flocks about 24 and 13 were divided between **Hameenlinna**, **Salo**, **Rauma** and **Mantta**. The Game Research Institute predicts 1000 birds by 1980.

\*\*\*

Finnish President **Urho Kekkonen** was in Holland on a 4 day state visit in October. He was welcomed by Queen **Juliana** and Prince **Bernhard** at the Amsterdam railroad station.

The state visit included tours to the dams, historic old cities, farms, the parliament and museums which house the paintings by the old Dutch master painters.

During the farewell dinner, he invited Queen **Juliana** and Prince **Bernhard** to Finland.

One incident that made its

way to the papers, happened on the second day of his visit. While shaving, he accidentally received a cut that would not stop bleeding. Also it happened just prior to a state dinner where he was to answer Prime Minister **Barand Biesheuveling's** speech, but after that he was forced to cancel the rest of the day's program.

President **Kekkonen** returned to Finland on Oct. 27.

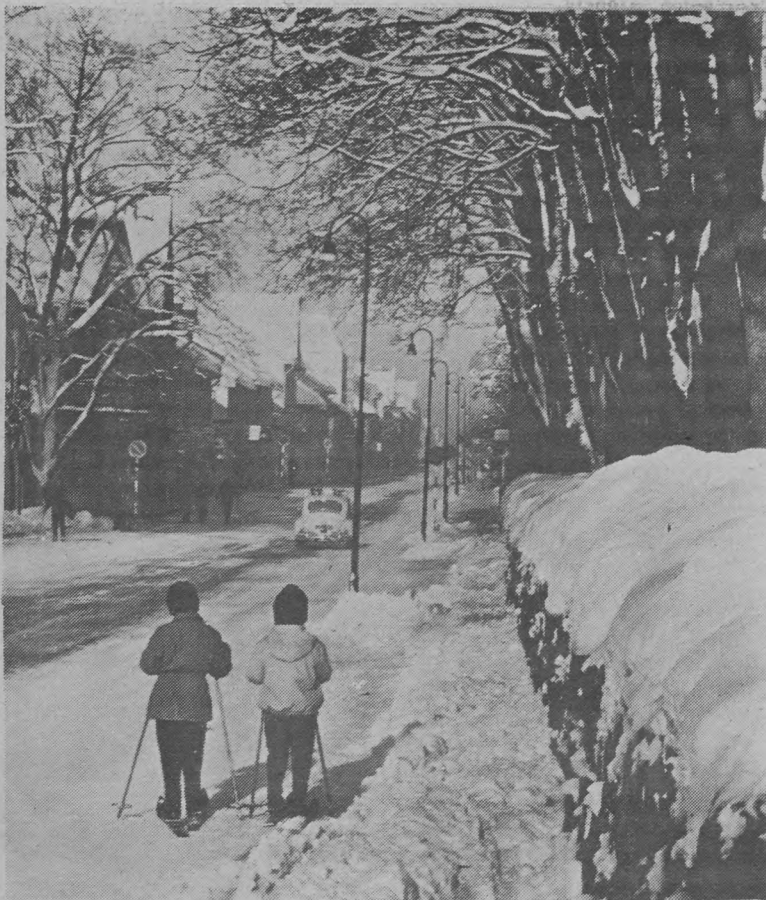
In November he travelled again, this time to Stockholm, Sweden, for two days where he took part in the birthday celebrations in honor of the Swedish king, King **Gustav VI Adolf**, who was 90 years old on Nov. 11.

On Nov. 18 & 19, the president paid a visit to **Paajarvi Forest Industrial Centre** in the Soviet Union. He was invited by **Perusyhtymä Oy** which is building the centre. **Paajarvi** is located in the **Carelian Soviet Republic**, the same latitude as **Kuusamo**.

\*\*\*

Finland's oldest man died on Nov. 5 at the age of 103 at **Posios Mourujarvi**. **Kalle Sarajarri** was born on April 24, 1869. He had a family of 12 and now there are 100 children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. His own son had had his 78th birthday just before his father's death. Now the oldest man in Finland is 102 years old—**Justus Lokka** from **Sodankyla**.

Among the six oldest women there is Mrs. **Amalia Wallenius** from Helsinki who is 105 years old and is the oldest of them all.



Ski touring begins on main street in Norway! View from the centre of **Lillehammer**, famous Norwegian ski resort. (Photo from Norwegian National Tourist Office.)

United Nations Ambassador **Ole Algard** said at the UN that Norway was to take the initiative in holding an international conference with a view to preserving the natural environment in Arctic areas. In the near future, the Norwegian Government was to get in touch with the countries having special interests in the Arctic areas. The Government hoped it would be possible to convene such a conference in the course of 1973.

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**CHRISTMESS:** five minutes after the gifts are opened . . .

Mrs. **Inger Louise Valle**, former Minister of Family and Consumer Affairs, later Minister of Consumer Affairs and Government Administration in the Norwegian Government, has been appointed as Norway's first Consumer Ombudsman. She will assume the newly created office on January 1, 1973.

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Beatniks are making a big thing of Christmas. They figure Santa Claus is one of them—since he doesn't shave and only works one day a year.

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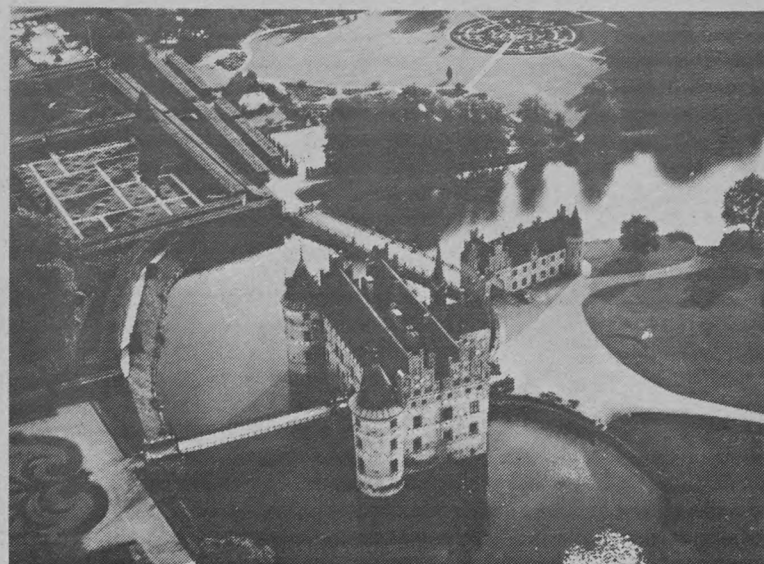
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Egeskov Mansion built around 1550 on oak piles rammed into the lake bed, Funen, Denmark. (Photo: Danish National Tourist Office, 505 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10017.)



# Scandinavian History and Culture Probed

## Ombudsman and Justitieombudsman

**Mr. Sveen:** In modern societies there is a great centralization of power. Government constantly intervenes in our life in the form of taxes, court rulings, police enforcements, compulsory insurance schemes, etc. George B. McClellan, the Alberta Ombudsman, says in the "Alberta Municipal Counsellor", "There is hardly any field of business, manual labour, or other occupation, in which the average person finds himself engaged, where he is not subject to numerous forms of government control."

**Dr. Nelson:** Central authority generally works for the average good in democratic societies. However, there are real problems that become more acute every year for the citizen. In big cities municipal government is remote and difficult to approach. Decisions affecting one's life adversely are not easy to contest. In rural areas provincial offices are frequently too huge and complex a body of government instrumentality for an aggrieved citizen's complaint to have any practical consequences. Wrong planning or administration at the Federal level occurs across a chasm where the ordinary man cannot find a bridge by himself.

**Mr. Sveen:** I understand that the ombudsman is an officer who will represent the citizen to government. Is this so?

**Dr. Nelson:** Yes. Many countries have a public officer investigate citizen complaints about government. This officer is free from meddling or pressure. He should be a person with wide knowledge, highly respected for integrity, very energetic and with great personal courage. He must be prepared to stand against criticism and consider doing his job worth more than personal popularity. The ombudsman must test the facts equally in every case. Therefore, he is as much a defender of the civil service against unjustified criticism as the voice of the lowly, opposed and friendless.

**Mr. Sveen:** The office of the ombudsman takes citizen complaints about the actions of people in government. The ombudsman hears and examines these and when he finds merit in the complaint attempts to right injustice or obtain amends for a grievance. There is widespread interest in this office and he may have titles such as "Citizens' Defender", "Citizens' Guardian", "Defender of Civil Liberty", etc. but I understand that the whole idea originated and was first practised in Scandinavia.

**Dr. Nelson:** This is correct. I have read that there was no precedent for such an office in other countries. The first special commissioner appointed by any country having the responsibility to guarantee civil rights have the title "Justitieombudsman". He had the job of making certain that laws and statutes were adhered to by courts and other authorities, and the responsibility to prosecute judges or any other official committing wrong acts while in office or ignoring their official responsibilities. The whole idea underlying the ombudsman was that the government must itself be bound by law.

**Mr. Sveen:** We hear a great deal about civil rights these days. Is the office of recent origin?

**Dr. Nelson:** Not really! It was first instituted in 1809. The

constitution which provided for it is still in force although several times amended. The Justitieombudsman has been continuously active hearing continually more cases in recent years. The first 100 years' cases in Sweden averaged 70 per year, but in 1960, 983 complaints were investigated. The foresight of that Riksdag of 1809 is impressive when one considers that this office is being instituted wholesale by other Western nations 150 years after it was formed and put into action in Scandinavia. In spite of fundamental social changes, the office functions in a useful way. But then Scandinavia has always been in the vanguard of movements to promote individualism and personal liberty.

**Mr. Sveen:** I think it was mentioned earlier that the Magna Carta had a debt to Scandinavia too. This was another document dealing with individual rights.

**Dr. Nelson:** According to Hilda Ellis-Davidson, it is an abridged form of old Norse law. She presents rather compelling evidence to support her contention by translating the old Norse law into English and printing this and the English version side by side.

**Mr. Sveen:** What does the ombudsman do?

**Dr. Nelson:** The function is positive in character. The foremost objective has always been to protect personal rights and to prevent wrongs by directing attention to the true substance of law and to procedures to improve the practice of government. More specifically, the ombudsman takes action: (a) against erroneous interpretation of the law and transgressions of authority, (b) against improper local regulations, (c) for the protection of freedom of assembly, (d) against improper restraints on personal liberty, and (e) against irregular interpretation of the law and improper practice with respect to law.

**Mr. Sveen:** Whose idea was it to create the ombudsman office?

**Dr. Nelson:** Little is known about the background of the proposal to Parliament or with whom the proposal originated. We do know that the idea that the courts and administrative agencies falling under the control of the King should be subjected to continuous surveillance was against the wishes of the King and his government. Many persons believe that there was a suspicion on the part of parliament that the government was not obeying the law as it should and that the Parliament considered that it had a duty to the people to see that government did so. The real aim was regulation of the bureaucrats appointed by the King and his deputies. The ombudsman meant that the apparatus of legal enforcement had to henceforth act in strict accordance with the law and not do things in a manner suiting itself or governmental policy of the moment.

**Mr. Sveen:** This grand and

revolutionary idea seems to be becoming popular today all over the world. You would say that it is a consequence of the Northman's mentality?

**Dr. Nelson:** Yes, the invariance of the Northman's attitude toward authority is clear. He believed in the institution of authority as a practical necessity. Man must live under law or social order may disappear. As we said in earlier programs, this idea first permeated the common mentality of Germanic speaking peoples. Other peoples had well codified laws very early it is true, but they needed a judicial apparatus for enforcement. In Scandinavia the law was given at popular assemblies such as the Icelandic Thing, and put in force by the people themselves. From earliest days order and law was not a respecter of persons or position, although power to enforce the law was recognized as indispensable to its practical implementation.

The idea that kings have absolute rights, that there is divine authority either within the structure of government or religion has found poor soil in Scandinavia. The son to the French Marshall Bernadotte, heir apparent to the throne of Sweden and Norway in 1815, discovered this. The first ombudsman paid him a visit at the Royal Palace and an angry Prince found that he was required to publically justify the arrest of an officer of his own guard. Such a suggestion was unheard of elsewhere. The King himself was later informed that he could not legally billet soldiers in farm homes against a payment that did not cover the reasonable expenses of the farmer for the service. Compare this to the case in Imperial Russia, Germany or Britain at the same time!

I would say that the "JO" or "Ombudsman" officer is an echo of the answer a Viking gave 11 centuries ago to a ruler in France. The French King sent a messenger to the river bank who gave the question "who is your ruler?" A Northman shouted back: "We have no rulers. We, in this ship, are all equals."

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